

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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S E C R E T STATE 081744 TOSEC 030085

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FOR AMB BOEKER FROM ACTING SECRETARY COOPER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: BL, ECON

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA: ELECTIONS AND TIN SALES

REF: (A) TOSEC 30055 (B) TOSEC 30063 (C) LA PAZ 2529

1. IN YOUR MARCH 30 NOON MEETING WITH BANZAR YOU SHOULD
REITERATE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO EARLY ELECTIONS. YOU
SHOULD USE YOUR JUDGEMENT ON WHETHER TO PRESS FOR EXISTING
(JULY) SCHEDULE OR TO PRESS BOLIVIANS TO SPECIFY EARLY
NEW DATE FOR ELECTIONS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO TIN, YOU MIGHT DRAW ON FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. THE U.S. NOW HAS VERY LIMITED AUTHORIZATION TO SELL
TIN AND CONSEQUENTLY NO SUBSTANTIAL TIN SALES WILL BE MADE

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BEFORE A JULY ELECTION.

B. OTHER TIN PRODUCERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE LONG-TERM
PROSPECTS FOR TIN AND WISH TO SEE REASONABLE U.S. SALES IN
ORDER TO MITIGATE SUPPLY SHORTFALLS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL
YEARS.

C. THE U.S. HAS PROMISED TO CONSULT FULLY BEFORE WE SELL
AND, TO AVOID UNDUE MARKET DISRUPTIONS.

3. IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN AVOIDING POST-
PONEMENT OF ELECTION OR DEFLECTION OF BLAME IN EVENT OF
POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTION, YOU MAY ADVANCE USG OFFER THAT
TIN SALES IN THE REMAINDER OF 1978 WOULD BE MADE IN THE
LIGHT OF MARKET CONDITIONS. FURTHERMORE, WITH LEGISLATIVE
CONCURRENCE WE WOULD NOT SELL MORE THAN 5,000 TONS IN
THE REMAINDER OF 1978, UNLESS THE MARKET IS FIRM (I.E.
PRICES ARE ABOVE PRESENT PRICE AND RISING).

4. THE U.S. CONSIDERS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT BOLIVIAN
ELECTION BE HELD AS SCHEDULED. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE
BLAME SHOULD THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDE TO TRY TO
ATTRIBUTE POSTPONEMENT TO OUR TIN SALES. WE WISH TO BE
HELPFUL ABOUT BOLIVIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT THE U.S.
CANNOT BE LABELED AS THE CAUSE OF THEM. IF PRESIDENT
BANZAR POSTPONES ELECTION, THE U.S. WOULD BE FORCED TO
WITHDRAW THIS OFFER. YOU MAY WARN BANZAR THAT IF HE
ATTEMPTS TO BLAME ELECTION POSTPONEMENT ON USG, THE U.S.
WOULD BE FORCED TO RESPOND IN PUBLIC ABOUT THE EXISTENCE
OF THIS OFFER. COOPER

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